# SPECIFICATION CONFERENCE CALLS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**FCR SSA Date of Death Match Information**

**Question 1:** At what point, during the month, will States receive their monthly matches from the SSA Date of Death file?

**Answer:** In order to allow States to run their end of month processing, the Death Match information will be sent to States sometime during the second or third week of each month, starting in December. The initial load will start on November 19 and end about ten days later. We will send out an E-Flash to notify States when the information will be sent.

**Question 2:** How often does SSA change or delete the Date of Death of participants?

**Answer:** The answer is indeterminate. However, approximately 1.5% of each month's updates will be changes and approximately 1.8% of each month's updates will be deletes.

**Question 3:** How Reliable Is The SSA Date Of Death Information?

**Answer:** SSA's numbering system has evolved over the years; unfortunately, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the data that is received from SSA. The information received from the SSA database is the most reliable system we currently have available. The Date of Death information comes from many sources and each source must have a different level of reliability. In some cases the information is used to begin a benefit for a dependent; whereas, in other cases the information comes into SSA to cancel a benefit. We have no way of assessing each individual case for reliability. Further enforcement or collection action on the case will require further verification of death, assets or estates. The Death information only provides a lead to that end. In the majority of cases, it should be a good indication to take steps toward case closure.

**Question 4:** What sources provide SSA with the Death information?

**Answer:** According to SSA, Death information is received from funeral directors, SSA district offices, and family members.

**Question 5:** Why will States not receive SSA Death information on verified multiple SSNs?

**Answer:** It was decided that it would not be cost effective based upon the fact that the FCR stores only the Date of Death for the Primary SSN and the logic necessary to extract the "other" verified SSNs Date of Death, for the small percent of times this situation would occur, did not seemed cost effective.

**Question 6:** Will States receive proactive SSA Death matches on their Legacy systems?

**Answer:** No, Date of Death information will only be returned to States via the FCR.

**Question 7:** A large percentage of the Date of Death matches received from the SSA Death Master file have the day of death with a value of 00. When the value of 00 is received from

SSA, what will the FCR send back to the States? Will it be in the same format that is sent by SSA (00), or will it be converted to a valid value - 01 - as the default value?

**Answer:** A decision has been reached to return to the States the day of death of 01 when a day of death of 00 is received from SSA. This decision was reached in part because many States and the FCR require a valid date value in date fields.

**Question 8:** When a State sends an "add person" record and the FCR finds death information for the participant, will the participant be added to the FCR or rejected?

**Answer:** The participant will be added to the FCR.


## FCR Proactive Match for Case Closure/Person Delete

**Question 1:** Will the FCR proactively close participants as death information is received from SSA?

**Answer:** No, if the State decides to delete a participant due to the information that is received from the SSA Death match file, it must send a delete participant or case transaction.

**Question 2:** Will States be notified if a Non IV-D case is closed/participant is deleted on the FCR?

**Answer:** Yes, IV-D agencies will be notified of closure/delete transactions of non IV-D cases/participants. This approach is consistent with the way the FCR currently handles proactive matching.


## FCR General

**Question 1:** In the SSA Date of Death narrative overview, it says the match is performed regardless of the family violence indicator. Answer 9 of the Release Manifest Conference Call Q&A, says that "no proactive match data can be sent to the State for a person with a family violence indicator (FVI)." This seems contradictory. Please clarify the difference.

**Answer:** SSA Date of Death matches are sent to you regardless of the family violence indicator because the match is done with the State and SSA. The State is aware of the FVI on the participant because the State submitted the person with the FVI. For the FCR proactive match on case closure or delete a person, proactive matching will not occur on a participant with the FVI because this is sharing information between States.

**Question 2:** How soon will FCR test data be available to the States?

**Answer:** The test data will be available the middle of October. Because of ongoing ACF changes to Web Posting Policy there is a temporary suspension of web postings. Initially, test data will be emailed or sent to contacts, and a later web posting will be considered if it is necessary.

## CSENet & IRG

**Question 1:** Is statistical data, specifically the number of wage withholdings to DFAS, available?
**Answer:** This information has been requested from Bonnie Walters of DFAS, and it will be made available to States once received.

**Question 2:** What do States need to do to resolve discrepancies in the State-to-State Enabled Communications Report that will be disseminated on September 17, 2001?
**Answer:** States will need to contact their colleagues if S (Send) or R (Receive) is found on the report for a specific State. States will also need to contact their CSENet 2000 technical representative with updated information for database updates.

**Question 3:** The CSENet 2000 closure codes do not reflect up-to-date closure codes. Will these closure codes be updated?
**Answer:** Changes to the closure codes to support Federal regulations were scheduled for implementation in October 2000 but the moratorium on changes was imposed prior to implementation. The changes to the closure codes are still open but they are not part of this release manifest because States would need to make programming changes that would be considered a major release. We will be evaluating options to lessen the programming impact on States so that it could meet the criteria for a minor release.

**Question 4:** The IRG and CSENet field lengths remain inconsistent. When will this be considered for a change?
**Answer:** We recognize that States have previously raised this issue and this change will be considered for a major release.

**Question 5:** States may need to enter their State in the NCP field of the ICR record layout. Are field definitions available or do States need to agree on what to put in that field?
**Answer:** The ICR file layout has not changed since it was first introduced to States and the work group did not address definitions for the fields.

**Question 6:** What are the Non IV-D case types used for?
**Answer:** CSI Transactions

**Question 7:** When will the CSENet 2000 case types and values that are no longer valid on the UIFSA forms be removed?
**Answer:** This change would require State programming and will be considered for a major release.

**Question 8:** What definitions are used for Former Assistance and Never Assistance?
**Answer:** The definitions are based on the UIFSA forms.

**Question 9:** Are there plans to use the OCSE Network for communication with SSA?
**Answer:** No, not at this time, however, it may be taken into consideration.

**Question 10:** Does OCSE have a definition for Regional offices?
**Answer:** The IRG team will be developing this definition in conjunction with the States during upcoming conference calls.

**Question 11:** How should States resolve the discrepancy on the CSENet 2000 State-to-State Communications Report if State A has sent a specific Function code to State B but State B has not sent that Function code to State A? Will State A be notified if State B contacts their CSENet 2000 technical representative to disable communications for that Function code?
**Answer:** States will need to contact their colleagues to resolve discrepancies, then the States contact their CSENet 2000 technical representative. If the CSENet technical representative receives contact from State B but no contact from State A, State A will be notified of State B's request.

**Question 12:** Should the version number field in the ICR Header Record Layout read 10000 or 00001?
**Answer:** 1 and four spaces or four spaces and 1.

**Question 13:** Why are Superior Courts not an option for the IRG drop down box?
**Answer:** This option has been added to the IRG Drop down box. This function will be on the County side of the address listing with the code of (SUP) Superior Court.


## MISCELLANEOUS


**Question 1:** Has the Interface Guidance Document (IGD) been updated to reflect the November releases?
**Answer:** The most recent version of the IGD to be released in November will not reflect the new changes. The new release information will be in the subsequent version of the IGD with a probable release date in 2002.